"WHEN YOU ASK A STRANGER THAT WHICH IS OF INTEREST.."

DRAWER 6A SPURIOUS QUOTATIONS

71 2009 085 05014

Abraham Lincoln Quotations & Sayings

Spurious

"When You Ask a Stranger That Which is of Interest…"

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

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"WHEN YOU ASK A STRANGER THAT WHICH IS OF INTEREST"
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Autograph Request

* * * *

When Abraham Lincoln was President, he received a letter from a woman who asked him to write her a sentiment and send her his autograph. Lincoln wrote: "Dear Madam: Hereafter when you write to others concerning matters that interest only yourself, please enclose a stamp. There's your sentiment and here's your autograph. A. Lincoln."

* * * *

A Lincoln Statement.

From the Youth's Companion.

Lincoln was no sticker for formalities, either in dress or in manners. But he knew the etiquette of correspondence and knew how to teach it to others.

At a lodge in Phildelphia a group of very old men, some with empty sleeves and some with empty trouser legs, were telling stories about Lincoln.

"My wife collected autographs," said one. "She once wrote to Lincoln for a sentiment and his autograph, and she got in reply a note that ran:

" 'Dear Madam: When you ask from a stranger that which is of interest only to yourself, always inclose a stamp. There's your sentiment, and here's your autograph.—A. Lincoln.' "

* * *

LINCOLN'S RETORT

An ambitious woman once wrote to Abraham Lincoln, asking for a sentiment and his autograph. The President answered promptly:

"Dear Madame: When you write to a stranger, asking the favor of a letter, always inclose a postage stamp. There's the sentiment.

"Here's the autograph:

"A. LINCOLN."

* * *

A VAIN APPEAL

1909

Albert Mitchell

The ANSWER MAN

Chicago	WGN	Minneapolis-St. Paul	KSTP
Denver	KOA	Omaha	WOW
Des Moines	WHO	St. Louis	KSD
Kansas City	WDAF	Tulsa	KTUL
Wichita	KFH	Salt Lake City	KDYL

POST OFFICE BOX 1213 CHICAGO, ILL.

October 26, 1942

Lincoln Historical Research Foundation
Lincoln National Life Insurance Company
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Sirs:

One of my listeners has asked me:

"Can you tell me the text of a certain letter attributed to Abraham Lincoln in reply to one written to him by a woman requesting some information which would involve time and energy to obtain for her? I do not remember the circumstances but vaguely, seems that it was something connected with her son in the army. However, Mr. Lincoln sent a brief reply along with the information in which he remarked upon the woman having requested information which was of value only to herself but which did require time and effort to procure for her and that she did not send a stamp for reply as an indication that she appreciated having this favor done for her.

"Just what was the text of that letter Mr. Lincoln wrote?"

Any information you care to send me will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Albert Mitchell
J.H.

AM:IH

Van Dyck 32's
A FINE 5¢ CIGAR
The "Modern-Taste" Cigar that SATISFIES "SMOKE HUNGER"

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October 29, 1942

Mr. Albert Mitchell
The Answer Man
P.O. Box 1213
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

The letter about which you inquire in your note of October 26 written by Abraham Lincoln in reply to a lady who had requested his autograph is found in several different forms which is rather a clear indication that the letter is not genuine and we have never considered it as such here.

Attached to this letter you will find a photostat of three different versions of it very much the same and yet not the same.

We have never been able to find any authentic information that would confirm Lincoln's having written the words credited to him.

Very truly yours,

LAW:WM
enc.

Director

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